

Wetlands Division Bi-Weekly Update
March 13, 2014

Division Management

Budget Overview

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

National Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG)

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Program Management

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Program Updates

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Coastal Wetlands Initiative/NOP REPR

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

State Programs/Assumption

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine



On March 2, 2014, New Jersey's CWA 404 Program celebrated 20 years of implementation.

- ASWM

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Waters of the US Rule

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Agriculture Interpretive Rule

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Bristol Bay Assessment

- On Friday, February 28, EPA initiated the 404(c) process under the Clean Water Act to identify appropriate options to protect the sockeye salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, Alaska from the potentially destructive impacts of the proposed Pebble Mine. During this process, the Corps of Engineers cannot approve a permit for the mine.
- The Alaska Attorney General immediately responded on 2/28 with a letter to the Administrator and the RA requesting that EPA toll (extend) the 15 day time period until permit applications are submitted (indefinitely). PLP verbally joined this request. A response is being drafted.
- The Bristol Bay technical-attorney team are working to develop a draft Proposed Determination.
- The Response to Comment (RTC) documents for the 2012 and 2013 public comments are scheduled for release on Mar 21.
- EPA is scheduled to meet with PLP executives on Friday March 21, 2014.
- EPA has received new FOIA requests from Earthworks and PLP.

Congressional Request for Reports on 404 Permitting

- On Feb. 25, we met with Benita and Dave to review our proposed strategy for responding to this request and producing reports and they supported the proposed path forward.
- Wetlands has given the Regions an opportunity to review the report template and provide comments this week. Thereafter, we will start working on QC'ing a report reflecting activities from the first quarter of FY14.
- A briefing for OW has been scheduled for March 20 from 10 – 10:45 AM. Following this meeting we plan to discuss the reporting strategy with OCFO, OCIR, and OMB.
- Tim Fontaine in OW has now indicated that OCFO wants to see monthly reports and the first report should be submitted before the Administrator's hearing at the end of March. These changes to the report and schedule represent a significant increase in workload and may not be achievable.

Permit reviews of interest

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine

Surface Coal Mining in Appalachia

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High Visibility Projects

Unrelated to Bristol Bay or Pebble Mine